JL/HW

1735 Highland Place, #25
Berkeley, CA 94709
May 31, 1975

Mr. Quinlan J. Shea, Jr.
Chief, Freedom of Information Appeals Unit
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Shea:

Thank you for your letter of May 23, concerning my request under the Freedom of Information Act for certain FBI records relating to Lee Harvey Oswald.

After I submitted my appeal by letter of May 11, I received the enclosed letter of May 8 from FBI Director Kelley. He states that my request is being treated as a "project type" matter and that a reply is anticipated within 60 days.

My original letter of March 1 (enclosed) did include a broad request for all pre-assassination FBI records on Oswald. I also specified 19 items from a single file on which I wanted a response within the short period specified by the law. Perhaps my letter was not emphatic enough in indicating that I want this specific request treated separately from, and more promptly than, the general one.

I made the specific request for several reasons:

(1) Some of the items deal with matters of particular current interest to me.

(2) I would like to see if the recent changes in the FOIA have caused the FBI to abandon the tendency to apply the investigative file exemption in the broadest possible way. I also want to find out if the new Guidelines relating to material more than 15 years old will lead to increased disclosure.

(3) I would like to confirm that this important file on Oswald still exists. Without specific assurances, and the release of some items from that file, I have no reason to believe that its integrity has been maintained.

I do understand that my broad request might require quite a bit more time than specified in the Act. I have no desire to be unreasonable, and I do not want to force you into denying the request if, by taking somewhat more time, you would arrive at a totally or partially positive response.

I trust, therefore, that you can act on my request for the 19 specified items from the Headquarters Oswald file by June 12, and also give me some idea of how you think the broad request can be dealt with.

Sincerely yours,

Paul L. Hoch

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